

**PRESS RELEASE**

Colorado Department of Law
Attorney General John W. Suthers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2013

CONTACT

Carolyn Tyler
Communications Director
720-508-6553
Carolyn.Tyler@state.co.us

**ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES OTHELLO BLAND SENTENCED TO 14 -
YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR ORGANIZED CRIME RELATED AUTO THEFT**

DENVER - [Colorado Attorney General John Suthers](#) announced today that Othello Bland (DOB: 06/19/1978) was sentenced to 14-years in the Colorado Department of Corrections by an Arapahoe County judge. Bland pled guilty in January to charges under the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA) after reaching an agreement with prosecutors.

“We charged Othello Bland with stealing 13 cars in Colorado between 2007 and 2010,” said Suthers. “He also committed similar crimes in Idaho and Kansas and was implicated in several incidents in Utah, Nebraska and Missouri.”

Bland’s sentence stems from a seventeen count indictment, filed in October 2011, that charged him with having crafted and implemented an elaborate scheme to fraudulently purchase and resale vehicles over the internet. After targeting vehicles that a typical family would drive, Bland purchased them from unsuspecting private parties who advertised their cars on websites such as Craigslist. He then paid for the vehicles with fraudulent checks that purportedly came from insurance companies. Bland often posed as an insurance agent on the phone to perfect the scheme. Once the vehicles were in his possession, Bland then advertised and sold the fraudulently purchased vehicles to unsuspecting buyers for cash.

The indictment against Bland is the result of a lengthy investigation conducted by members of the Attorney General’s Auto Theft Unit, The Metro Auto Theft Taskforce, and multiple law enforcement agencies within and outside Colorado. The Attorney General’s Auto Theft Unit and the Metro Auto Theft Taskforce are funded through a grant from the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA).

###